

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1-58. (canceled)

59. (previously presented) A communication system for distributing information via an optical network, comprising:

an optical plant;

a point of distribution, comprising:

a multi-port switch that forwards source information for each of a plurality of subscriber destinations to a corresponding port;

a plurality of optical transceivers, each optical transceiver coupled to one of the plurality of ports of the switch to convert information received from a respective port to a respective one of a plurality of optical source signals, and each optical transceiver exclusively assigned to a subscriber destination to allocate unshared bandwidth to its assigned subscriber destination; and

a wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) combiner that combines an optical source signal from each of the plurality of optical transceivers into a combined optical signal and that transmits the combined signal onto the optical plant;

a plurality of fiber optic cables, each routed to a corresponding one of a plurality of subscriber destinations; and

a WDM selector, coupled to the optical plant, that receives and separates the combined optical signal from the WDM combiner into its individual optical signal components, and that forwards each separate optical signal over a corresponding one of the plurality of fiber optic cables to the subscriber destinations.

60. (original) The communication system of claim 59, wherein the switch comprises an optical switch.

61. (original) The communication system of claim 59, further comprising:

a plurality of optical gateway devices, each located at a respective subscriber destination and coupled to a corresponding one of the plurality of fiber optic cables.

62. (original) The communication system of claim 59, further comprising:  
the optical plant including an upstream optical plant; and  
the point of distribution including a WDM splitter coupled to the WDM selector via the  
upstream optical plant and coupled to each of the plurality of optical transceivers via a separate  
fiber optic cable.

63-78. (canceled)